

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

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Number 26



We are come again in troubled times to note the birth of Him who is called Prince of Peace. The very lands that once He trod are battle-scarred and marked of blood. And the walls of Zion echo so far as God has ground.

But let us remember that He, too, came in troubled times. He was born on a tax-paying pilgrimage in the midst of a housing shortage. His people were burdened and oppressed; there were none of worth or substance to smooth His path. The fingers of His gentle hands would not suffice to count the several strifes that rose about Him. Ten score references to war and bloodshed are in the brief pages of His Testament. A man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief, He was ridiculed, betrayed, persecuted, tortured, and came finally to His Crucifixion at an age when an average young theologian is yet struggling with the perplexities of his first charge.

In the brief yrs of active ministry, His faithful followers numbered fewer souls than you will find at a Sunday movie. While He lived, they would not listen. And yet, thru the space of Twenty Centuries this man speaks to six hundred million who hail Him Savior of Mankind, while millions more revere His creed as the grandest ethical concept ever nurtured in a human heart.

MAY WE *Quote* YOU ON THAT?

WINSTON CHURCHILL, wartime British Prime Minister: "I hope that among those principles that will be instilled into him (Britain's newly-christened Prince CHAS PHILIP ARTHUR GEO) will be the truth that the sovereign is never so great as when his people are free." 1-Q

CHAS G MORTIMER, Jr, v-pres of Gen'l Foods: "If a man hears our system attacked, and doesn't understand it well enough to pick out the flaws and the phonies in the argument, he is a likely candidate for the pinks and reds." 2-Q

Prime Minister Jos CHIFLEY, of Australia: "Despite the dangerous under-currents surrounding Europe, the odds favor settlement of the world's problems, probably early in '49, except Berlin which is likely to prove difficult and a long-time problem." 3-Q

Dr T F TSIANG, China's Chief Delegate to UN: "To say that the Chinese situation is hopeless is to say that Asia is hopeless, that the future of the free nations of the world is hopeless." 4-Q

Sen LISTER HILL of Ala: "The time has come to knock some heads together, or, if need be, to knock some off, to give us unification in fact and not in fancy." 5-Q

Pres HARRY S TRUMAN: "Internat'l problems have moved into the front yard of every American home. No citizen can afford the illusion

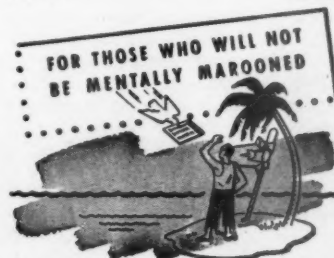
of being detached from them, for they have created hazards, to his family, his livelihood, and to the security he hopes to build for his children." 6-Q

ROBERT J BLAKELY, chief editorial writer, *St Louis Star-Times*: "Clearly we are all insane . . . No sane people would war with atomic weapons, yet all peoples who can are preparing to do so." 7-Q

BARBARA WARD, noted British Economist and Writer: "In some respects the world is in the same situation that it was in after the fall of the Roman empire. There is an even greater need for a religious revival now because paganism has become sophisticated." 8-Q

WALTER REUTHER, pres, UAW-CIO: "Labor is not interested in dollars but in purchasing power." 9-Q

ELLIS ARNALL, new head of independent movie makers: "If the motion picture industry continues to shake down people with inferior entertainment it will dry up like a vine." 10-Q





AGE—1

We do not count a man's yrs until he has nothing else to count.—*Wesley News*.

AMERICA—2

What America needs is less soiled conversation and more soil conservation.—*Record Stockman*.

ATOMIC POWER—Uses—3

It has been predicted that within 20 to 30 yrs it may be possible to travel from coast to coast in less than an hr on a subway train propelled by atomic power.—*GM Folks*, hm, Gen'l Motors Corp'n.

BUSINESS—Outlook—4

Unless there is a reduction of federal expenditures, a financial crisis in America is within the realm of possibility.—Sen HARRY F BYRD, of Va.

Because depression followed the 1st World War doesn't mean it must follow this last one. The entire world has suffered such dislocations, we must expect reversals.—Dr WALDO STEPHENS, news analyst & former Columbia Univ prof.

I see good in these repeated forecasts of a business recession. They have encouraged caution, orderly marketing and dampened speculative excesses.—Dr J MARVIN PETERSON, research director, Minneapolis Reserve Bank.

CHARACTER—5

Character is pretty much like window glass—when it is cracked,

it is cracked both inside and out.—*Voice of Calvary Tabernacle*.

CHARITY—Frauds—6

Each yr the American public is robbed of \$100 million by contributing to fraudulent charities. The racketeers who operate these appeals fashion their organizations so that they are practically indistinguishable from legitimate fund-raising groups.—MORTON SONTHEIMER, "The Meanest Crooks on Earth," *Collier's*, 12-11-'48.

CHILDREN—Santa Claus—7

Dep't store toy buyers have learned that the average child begins to lose faith in Santa Claus at the age of 7.1 yrs.—*Wright Line*, hm, Wright & Co.

CHINA—Aid—8

A weak patient can be strengthened by blood transfusions only if the blood is of a similar type. European economies are enough like ours to be revived by American economic transfusions. China's blood-type is too different for that method to work.—OWEN LATTIMORE, *St Louis Post-Dispatch*.

American military estimates for saving China run to a total of at least \$5 billion over a 3 or 4-yr period.—*AP*.

CHRISTMAS—9

After all, Christmas is but a big love affair to remove the wrinkles of the yr with kindly remembrances.—JOHN WAMAMAKER, U S Postmaster Gen'l, 1889-'93.

Instead of being a time of unusual behavior, Christmas is perhaps the only time in the yr when people can obey their natural impulses and express their true sentiments without feeling self-conscious and, perhaps, foolish. Christmas, in short, is about the only chance a man has to be himself.—FRANCIS C FARLEY, *W Va Oil News*.

CONCENTRATION—Disturbed—10

It isn't in any of the records that a great masterpiece was ever created in the presence of the genial caller who plunked himself down beside the writer's desk and remarked, "Don't let me interrupt you—go right along with your work."—*Arkansas Baptist*.

DEPENDENCE—11

If you lean on others, expect to suffer lean yrs.—*Forbes*.

DRINK—Drinking—12

The American Business Men's Research Foundation estimates that total arrests for drunkenness, driving while intoxicated, disorderly conduct and specific liquor law violations totaled well over 25 million in the 15 yrs since the 18th amendment was succeeded by the 21st. Comparing arrests for these 4 liquor offenses in '32 with those reported by the FBI for '47, the foundation estimates that arrests for drunkenness have increased 197% and arrests for driving while intoxicated have risen 122%. No effort was made to tabulate other offenses in which liquor frequently plays a conspicuous and tragic part.—*Christian Advocate*.

Schenleys Distillers reports profits for the yr ending Aug 31 amounting to \$29,524,365.—*Survey Bulletin*.

DUTY—Courage—13

Someone tells the story about the time when a rider who headed a hunting party in England commanded a boy at a gate to open it. "I'm sorry, sir," ans'd the boy, "but my father sent me to say that you must not hunt on his grounds."

"Do you know who I am?" demanded the man gruffly.

"No, sir," ans'd the boy.

"I am the Duke of Wellington."

The boy took off his cap, but he did not open the gate. "The Duke of Wellington will not ask me to disobey my father's orders," he said quietly.

Slowly the man took off his hat, and smiled. "I honor the boy who is faithful to his duty," said the great man, and with that he and his party rode away.—*Nashua Cavalier*, hm, Nashua Gummed & Coated Paper Co.

EDUCATION—14

Education that does not mold the moral sense of a human being as well as his reasoning powers is lethal poison to the individual and social dynamite to the body politic.—*Trained Men*, hm, Internat'l Correspondence Schools.

EQUALITY—15

Leading ethnologists have proved the Biblical statement "God hath

made of one blood all nations." There is no such thing as Negro blood, Jewish blood, or Japanese blood. There is but one blood found in the veins of mankind—human blood. When we speak of Jewish blood we show our gross disregard for the facts. It would be just as correct to speak of Catholic blood, Baptist blood, Iowa blood, mountain blood.—RUSSELL C ROSS, "You Can't Choose Your Father," *Negro Digest*, 1-49.

A law unto itself . . .

Christmas is a law unto itself . . . a gay colorful law. You wouldn't dream of planting trees in your living room or hanging your stockings in public at any other time of the yr, but by the code of Christmas these and any other bits of whimsey are charmingly right.
—Glamour. 16

FREEDOM—of Press—17

Regarding a too revealing article on air force plans for future wars: We should not print everything we figure out any more than a man should tell a woman everything he is thinking while he looks at her.—LELAND STOWE, writer & foreign correspondent, in speech at DePauw Univ.

FUTURE—Predictions—18

A socialite astrologist who insisted on reading Sherman Billingsley's horoscope at the Stork Club gave him a full, thorough reading, complete with predictions for the next 7 yrs—all based on the birthday Billingsley had given her: Feb 30.—LEONARD LYONS, *McNaught Syndicate*.

GOV'T—Employees—19

It's 2,272 mi's from N Y to Salt Lake City, Utah. Yet, if all the civilian employees in the exec branch of our federal gov't were 6 ft tall and you placed them head to toe on U S Highway 30, they'd reach the distance easily with 1.4 mi's to spare.—GEO S BENSON, Pres, Harding College.

HONESTY—20

A group of young schoolteachers were taking a routine efficiency test. When they came to Part III they found a long list of book titles and authors. "Check the books you have read," said the directions.

Later, the examiners scoring the

papers discovered that 1/3 of the teachers had checked almost every book on the list; some had checked every one. Such results didn't mean that these teachers were extremely well educated; they meant that they were liars—because 25 of the 50 book titles did not exist. They had been invented by the examiners as a means of checking the truthfulness as well as the efficiency of their subjects.—PAULA PHILIPS, "Are You a Liar?" *This Wk*, 11-28-48.

INDUSTRY—Employment—21

Despairing of more modern methods, the Osaka (Japan) Prefectural Industrial Efficiency Research Inst is going to select workers by the bumps on their heads. The inst has asked Prof Hisao Wada, an expert in phrenology, to train a class of examiners in the head-bump science so they can pick employes for industrial firms.—AP.

LIFE—Enjoyment—22

The exploring party, with the help of native guides and bearers, was forcing its way thru the S American jungle. Then, still far from the camping place agreed upon, the natives sat down. "Were they sick?" the native leader was asked. "No." "Were they tired?" "No." "What was the reason for the halt?"

A good reason, the native leader explained. The men had been working hard and had gone far. Now it was time for them to stop until their souls could catch up with them.

Western civilization might wisely rest its machines and its lab's for awhile and do the same.—*Property*, syndicated by Cambridge Assoc's, Boston.

MAN—23

Man has been placed in the world in order that he may develop and expand his talents and capacities to their fullest extent. If he is to do so, he needs 4 things—knowledge, art and technical skill, morality and religion, for truth must be known, beauty fashioned, good practiced and God feared and loved.—Rt Rev OTTO KAR PROHASZKA, *Meditations on the Gospels*. (Sheed & Ward)

ORIGIN: Christmas Stocking—24

St Nicholas, whose desire to do good was equalled only by his dis-

like of being thanked for it, heard that in a poor cottage on the outskirts of the town were 3 beautiful girls so destitute that, if they wanted to keep alive, there seemed to be no alternative to a life of shame.

St Nicholas thereupon made his way to their home at night, and threw thru the smoke-hole of the hut a gift of gold pieces. Instead of falling on the hearth, as he had expected, they fell into the girls' stockings, which were hanging up to dry.

This was the origin of the Christmas stocking.—*Irish News*.

PEACE—25

World peace is a shaky thing as long as half of the children in the world are hungry and are searching for the garbage heaps.—DWIGHT D EISENHOWER, Pres, Columbia Univ, *Missions*.

PRAYER—26

The Lord's Prayer has had to withstand a great deal of mumbling and confusion, especially from children trying to learn it from poor enunciators, or from muttering crowds.

One little boy was heard to pray, "Harold be Thy name." Another begged, "Give us this day our jelly bread." A N Y child petitioned, "Lead us not into Penn station."—*St Louis Cathedral Bulletin*.



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COMMUNICATIONS: Of interest to pastors will be light, portable, inexpensive 2-way communication system for use between pulpit and organ console, or between other points in church. May be used as private system, audible only to users, or as small-scale public address system. Price: \$39.95; Model LC-2, Talk-A-Phone Co, 1512 S Pulaski Road, Chicago 23, Ill. (*Pulpit Digest*)

EDUCATION: Conversaphone, correspondence school using paper recordings for conversational instruction in languages, is now operating in Los Angeles. Students pay flat fee for course, recording and playback equipment. Lesson records are mailed to school hdqtrs for grading. (*York Trade Compositor*)

HOUSING: Aluminum 4-room house which a man can put up with a lug wrench will be put on the mkt in spring. It's made mostly of aluminum and plywood. Designed as vacation cottage, can be used all yr round in some parts of country. (*McCall's*)

MEDICINE: New drug "artane" has brought excellent results in treatment of Parkinson's Disease, or shaking palsy. Used on at least 66 cases, "significant benefits" were obtained in 51 patients. Still in experimental stage, it will not be in gen'l production until spring. (*UP*)

PRINTING: Printing press that operates without liquid ink has been developed by Todd Co, Rochester, N Y. Unit transfers ink from ribbon to a distributing means and from there to type. Especially applicable for inexpensive, high-speed method of imprinting personalized checks by banks. (*Adv & Selling*)

PSYCHOLOGY—27

A famous psychologist had bought a farm "just for fun." Every time he threw grain into his plowed furrows, an army of black crows would swoop down, gobble up his grain. Finally, swallowing his pride, the psychologist appealed to a neighbor-farmer.

The farmer stepped into the field and went thru all the motions of planting—without using any seed. The crows swooped down, protested briefly and flew away. The farmer repeated the process the next day, and then the next—each time sending the birds off befuddled and hungry. Finally, on the 4th day, he planted the field with grain. Not a crow bothered to come.

When the psychologist tried to thank his neighbor for the help, the farmer just grunted. "Just plain ordinary psychology," said he. "Ever hear of it?" — HELEN DISHALL, *Pageant*.

RUSSIA—Propaganda—28

A German was looking at the sea from the docks of the Rostock Harbor. The Russian harbor commandant asked what he was doing.

"I am waiting for the Russian ships which are supposed to bring us grain from the Soviet Union."

"Ah," was the reply (as he put a friendly arm about the man), "you not look here. You look in the newspapers!" — WALTER WINCHELL, *King Features Syndicate*.

SAFETY—Safe Driving—29

If you are one who worries about women drivers a Michigan prof has just discovered that the Romans passed a law in 205 B C prohibiting women from driving chariots.—*Survey Bulletin*.

SUCCESS—Talent—30

One well-cultivated talent, deepened and enlarged, is worth 100 shallow faculties. The 1st law of success in this day, when so many things are clamoring for att'n, is concentration—to bend all the energies to one point, and to go directly to that point, looking neither to the right nor to the left.—WM MATTHEWS, *Getting on in the World*.

TAXES—31

Each mo the Federal gasoline tax costs American motorists substantially more than the total tax receipts of the nat'l gov't 100 yrs ago.—M R SPRINGER, Oil Dealers' Ass'n of Ark.

WAR—Souvenirs—32

War souvenirs have killed 6,000 persons annually in the U S since the war, and 80% of the fatal accidents have involved children. Approx 75% of present day crimes involve use of foreign firearms, including many war souvenirs which have been obtained in various ways by criminals.—WALTER CARROLL, investigator in charge of Alcohol Tax Unit, Treasury Dep't, *Capper's Wkly*.

WEALTH—33

Wealth is not only what you have but it is also what you are.—STERLING W SILL, "Learning From Others," *Nylic Review*, hm, N Y Life Ins Co, 12-'48.

WOMEN—Understanding—34

Maybe it is good that men don't understand women. Women understand women and don't like them.—Link Belt News, hm, Link Belt Co.

WORRY—Definition—35

Worry, according to a contemporary biochemist "can be chemically defined as the psychic reaction of somatic saturation with paralytic acid and monosodic phosphate." —Dr M N EISENDRATH, "Worry, Worry, Worry," *American Hebrew*, 12-3-'48.

Our Resolutions

A little less impatient with those we deem too slow;
A little less of arrogance because of all we know;
A little more humility, seeing our worth is slight;
We are such trivial candles compared to stars at night!

A little more forgiving and swifter to be kind;
A little more desirous the word of praise to find:
The word of praise to utter and make a heart rejoice—
A little bit more careful to speak with gentle voice.

A little more true eagerness to understand each other;
A little more real striving to help a shipwrecked brother;
A little more high courage to each that must be done;
These be our resolutions—and God help everyone!
—Bible Advocate. 36



"The meaning of His manger-cradle . . ."

While on the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem by saddle, WM ALLEN KNIGHT's veteran guide, Maloof, fondly related what must have happened when Mary and Jos made the same journey before the Christ Child's birth. Mr KNIGHT has woven the experiences of his visit to Bethlehem into a beautiful narrative entitled *A Christmas Secret* (W A Wilde Co).

In this excerpt, Maloof tells of the manger-cradle in Bethlehem:

"Laid him in a manger?" . . . How beautiful that becomes when understood aright. You think, with your ways of life, of a place for cattle only. But have you seen that the common people and their animals live under the same shelter in this land? You will find it so, in Bethlehem—everywhere—even now. I like to think how, when the little town was crowded by reason of an enrolment, and there was no room in the inn, some kind villager said, 'Come to my house,' and so a place was made for Mary's babe in a household manger! 'No room in the inn!'—yes, as often now, no room in public places, but room in some lowly home, room in some heart that does its best to be kind—to somebody in need and so to Him; this is the meaning of His manger-cradle" . . .

Yet at first, I saw only what tourists see—the crooked little st's with their quaint life, the hubbub of the mkt-place, the ancient castle-like church, the cave room hung with tapestry and lined with marble and glimmering with 30 pendent lamps and having a silver star inlaid, with these words around it—"Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born"—much, indeed, and well worth journeying far to see. But the little town's ancient life did not fully lay its spell upon me until the 3rd and 4th day in Bethlehem.

There was a boy who took to recognizing me with a friendly smile when we chanced to pass each other in my roaming . . . To him I confided my desire to see the people of Bethlehem in their homes as Maloof had admonished. Yes, he would take me into houses he himself knew . . .

The doorway leads at once into a living room. A small fireplace is seen against the black wall straight before the door. An old woman sat on the floor by this fireplace, slowly turning a flat-stone grinding-mill. She stared at me in mute surprise. But the boy with a few

All that remains of the manger of Christ is treasured at the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome, where, soon after the yr 1585, Pope Sixtus V caused it to be enshrined. It reposes in a glass-fronted receptacle beneath the High Altar.—F P CAREY, *Leader*. (Limerick, Eire)

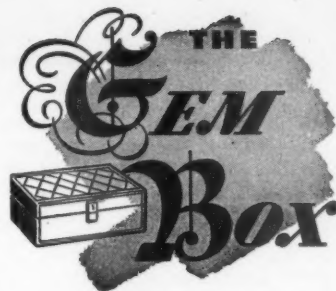
Arabic words quickly changed all that to a grin of welcome. Soon she beckoned me in . . .

In the lamp's dim light I saw a narrow, slightly raised space running along the rear wall from the fireplace to the room's end. It was a cave in the hillside rock, simply closed in by an outer wall of masonry! . . . When I came to the corner where the enclosing rock turned to make the wall, the lamp's flicker disclosed a small recess hollowed out in the rock itself. I passed my hand along its worn surface! Had I found a feeding place—a manger? There was a cow. I scented her kinelike breath, so near was she. And it was in a cave-house which was the home of a peasant's family! . . .

I passed down the stair, satisfied that I had seen such a house as that where in the young mother from Nazareth, soon to be the mother of the world's Saviour, was given shelter on that 1st Christmas night. The grotto over where the church stands may have been the spot; but this old cave-house close beside it, with its cow in the family living room and its manger in the cave walls—this far more than the other was like the place where they "laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

How strange that it had remained there so long, unspoiled by man's tampering veneration, a stone's throw from the other which men have made so unnatural with their marble and tapestry and lamps and quarreling priests!

Then I remembered the words of Maloof: "No room in the inn, no



New Year's Luck

New Yr's Day affords everyone the opportunity to bring himself good luck thruout the yr, according to several old superstitions.

The "First Foot"—the 1st person to enter the house New Yr's morning—plays a significant role in the family's future fortunes. He must be a dark man to bring good luck, but if he also brings a gift and "carries in" more than he "takes out" then the house is assured peace and plenty for a yr.

Unmarried persons are advised to look out of the window on New Yr's morning. If you see a man, it is a sign that you will be wed before the yr is out. Should you see a horse you can have a wish, and it will be realized within the yr. To see a dog is lucky, but a cat foretells worry. . .

Love's progress will be aided on New Yr's Day if you are careful to put on the left stocking before the right. The potency of this charm is supposed to be increased if you do all things as far as possible left-handed during the day.

To open a bank acc't on New Yr's Day was considered lucky in Old England, the custom growing probably from the belief of many centuries that whatever you do on the 1st day of the yr will be an indication of what will happen during the mo's that will follow.

In some parts of England and Scotland it is supposed to be unlucky to leave a house until some outsider has 1st entered it.—*Sunshine*.

room in public places, no room where the crowd is, but room in some lowly home, room in some heart that does its best to be kind—to somebody in need and so to Him; this is the way of His coming into our world from that 1st Christmas night until now."

GOOD STORIES

You Can Use

A Republican and a Democrat were having a discussion. Said the Republican: "I read where the Pres and his family have to move out while the White House is being redecorated."

"Yes," said the Democrat, "a handful of carpenters did what millions of Republicans couldn't accomplish."—*Wooden Barrel*, hm, Associated Cooperage Industries of America. a

" "

Economist: Somebody who has a plan to do something with somebody else's money.—R & R Magazine, hm, Ins Research & Review Service.

Once upon a time there was an Army slogan: "If it moves, salute it. If it doesn't move, pick it up. If you can't pick it up, paint it."

After the war the slogan changed to: "If it cries, change it. If it's on wheels, buy it. If it's hollow, rent it."

At Christmas this obliging slogan becomes: "If it's leather, gold-stamp it. If it's metal, engrave it. No matter what it is, personalize it."—*American Business*. b

Many a man's ambition is to be able to afford to spend what he's already spending.—*Houghton Line, hm, E F Houghton & Co.*

" "

The afternoon tea was a brilliant affair thought the hostess as she made the rounds checking on the wants of her guests. Then she spotted the guest of honor seated in a chair far removed from the other guests. "Are you enjoying yourself?" asked the concerned lady.

"Yes," repl'd the gentleman, "but that's all I'm enjoying."—*Christian Science Monitor*. c

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It was one of those "morning-after-the-night-before" classes wherein all mbrs seem in a blue-Monday daze. One student, on being asked what were the highest creatures God made, ans'd, somewhat hesitantly, "Men, Father." It

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

FRANK ZEISKE

Belleville (Tex) Times

The cards of thanks I get paid for running sometimes have exceptional reader appeal. This one appeared recently: "In appreciation—I wish to thank the Lord that the mad dog which Mr Blank killed last wk did not bite me as he passed within 3 ft of me. Signed, Mrs So and So." Response to the ad included another Card of Appreciation, ostensibly submitted for publication, which read: "In Appreciation—I wish to thank the Lord that I didn't bite Mrs So and So when I passed within 3 ft of her the other day. Signed, The Mad Dog."—*American Press*.

wasn't the answer the good padre wanted, and in an effort to draw the right answer he did everything but draw a picture of those celestial creatures known as angels. The student was still puzzled. Suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, it came to him. With a bright look on his face he shouted out triumphantly, "Women, Father! Women!"—*Catholic Digest*. d

" "

An old-timer can remember when the Christmas season began on the eve of Dec 24th, instead of on the day after Thanksgiving.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

" "

A party of lady delegates of the American Library Ass'n came to N Y to visit Lake Success. They called an official of the UN Secretariat, who suggested that they come the next day.

When they arrived, they were met by a young man who exhibited astonishment at their appearance but graciously told them of arrangements for them to attend a committee hearing on the status of African natives and a special pre-meeting briefing. Puzzled but

flattered they were led into a chamber where another nice young man gave an earnest lecture on the sociological and economic aspects of life in Africa, and then into the committee room, where they listened to an advanced discussion of the same subject matter.

The next day, one of the delegates called the Secretariat official and thanked him. She said that the group felt very well informed on a subject about which most librarians know, practically nothing. "Librarians!" cried the man. "Good heavens, I thought you said Liberians!"—*New Yorker*. e

" "

Education—what a chorus girl gets by stages and a college girl by degrees.—Philnews, hm, Phillips Petroleum Co.

" "

A young surgeon rec'd a phone call from a colleague who invited him to make a 4th at bridge. "Going out, dear?" asked his wife, sympathetically.

"I'm afraid so," was the brave reply. "It's a very important case. There are 3 doctors there already."—*Anglo-Celt*. f

" "

The hardest thing about learning how to skate is the ice, when you come right down to it.—Allied Youth.

" "

A man in Blackpool, England, makes us wonder if the telephone is here to stay. He decided that his house must be on fire and, not being the impetuous type, sent a postcard to the fire dep't. The card read: "Will you come to my house. I smell burning."

Twenty-four hrs later the fire dep't rec'd this casual announcement. At 1st they thought it was a joke but they decided to investigate. True enough, under the man's hearth were some happily smoldering timbers which had not yet broken into a blaze. The fire was extinguished and this same

gentleman can now sit safely by his hearth still serenely unconcerned with the hurly-burly of a modern mechanized age. — *Long Lines*, hm, American Telephone & Telegraph Co. g

" "
 A little boy is like a canoe—they both behave better if paddled from the rear.—Woodmen of the World Magazine, hm, Woodmen of the World Life Ins Society.

" "
 The housewife was doing her spring cleaning and wound up with a truckload of rubbish to be hauled away. She couldn't find anyone for the job.

Then one morning she spied a truck passing, loaded with ancient mattresses, cardboard boxes, rickety furniture, and other bric-a-brac. She called to the driver, "Hey, want to haul some junk for me, too?"

Came the reply: "I ain't haulin' junk. I'm moving my own furniture."—*American Wkly.* h

" "
 During Christmas season, one teacher taught her 2nd grade to make polite responses. "Merry Christmas" and "The same to you" became familiar terms. Soon after Christmas, one 2nd-grader had a birthday which was celebrated by singing *Happy Birthday to You*.

Extravaganza!

The Gaekwar of Baroda once ordered a Christmas card of ivory, measuring 10 by 12 in's. Over 40 elephants were killed before a piece the right size and quality was obtained. The work then entailed the constant labor of 4 skilled ivory carvers for 6 mo's. These engravings involved 8 million motions on the part of the workmen, one of whom was totally blind. When the carving was finished, the edges were set with 44 diamonds, "each as big as a hazel nut and of the purest water." The completed job was estimated to have cost half a million!—IRVING HOFFMAN, *Hollywood Reporter.* i

As the song ended, the child surprised everybody by saying, "Thank you, and the same to you."—*Instructor.* j

" "
 A small boy sat in the gallery and watched the preacher read a carefully written sermon. One page after another was laid aside until 30 or 40 of them had been piled up to the left. The youngster had watched the pile to the right decrease. When, therefore, the last leaf was carefully laid to the left, the minister lifted his face and said, "And so, my brethren, on this wonderful theme I could go on and on and on." k

It was too much for the impatient boy, and so he shouted down, "No, you couldn't. You are out of stuff and you know it!"—Mrs GLADYS KRUSE. k

" "
 The 2 critical periods in a man's life are when his voice changes and when his choice changes.—Talk.

" "
 In his later yrs the famous 'celist, David Popper, wore a jet black moustache altho his hair was snow white. A friend asked him for the reason of this discrepancy. "That is simple," repl'd Popper. "My moustache is 20 yrs younger than my hair!"—NICOLAS SLONIMSKY, *Etude.* l

" "
 A man in the liquor business has asked the Sisters of a certain convent for prayers. He told them that it was a favor of the utmost importance. The Sisters readily agreed. In a few wks' the man's wish was granted. He was elated. He visited the convent to express his gratitude to the Superioress:

"Sister, I am at a loss how to thank you. You don't know how much this means to me, and I feel it was due mostly to the Sisters' prayers. Isn't there something I can do to show my appreciation? Suppose I send in a case of beer?"

The Sister's breath was taken away, naturally. When able to speak, she explained, "Oh, my, no! We could never accept such a gift. It is entirely out of the question."

Capsule Book Review

The Night Before Christmas.

A highly improbable tale, but one that holds the reader in suspense. The action takes place on Dec 24th, involving a family which has just settled down "for a long winter's nap". They are just about asleep, when there is a heck of a commotion, apparently on the roof.

Nobody could sleep with all that racket, so one of the characters opens a window to see what gives. Believe it or not, there is St Nicholas parked alongside the chimney, with a sleigh and 8 tiny reindeer.

St Nick squeezes his fat form into the smoky chimney, dragging a well-filled bag of the toys behind him. The whole yarn puts considerable strain on the imagination, since the author definitely says "sleigh" on the roof and not "helicopter." He also uses a vulgar synonym for "abdomen". However, your reviewer predicts the work will hit the best seller lists before the month is out.—*Santa Fe*, hm, Santa Fe Ry. m

I am sure the Sisters feel amply repaid to know that God granted your wish."

"But Sister," the man insisted, "I must give you something! Suppose I send in 'Four Roses'?"

"Oh, that will be wonderful," the Sister exclaimed. "We'll put them on St Joseph's altar."—Rev EDMUND T MEEHAN. n

" "
 In connection with the "cold war" and our somewhat chilly relations with Russia, it might be appropriate to note at this time that Andrei Vishinsky's middle name is "Yanuari."

" "
 The factory hand, about to retire after long service, was receiving good wishes from his factory mgr. "No more early rising! You'll be able to enjoy an extra hr or 2 in bed."

"No, I'm afraid not," was the reply. "I'll still have to get up about 5:30 to get breakfast for father and get him off to work."

"Father" is 88 yrs old.—*Will's Works*, hm, Imperial Tobacco Co. (Great Britain) o



Mining

THE MAGAZINES

American Movies in Poland

ERIC JOHNSTON
Pres, Motion Picture Ass'n

Fresh out of Poland comes the story of what Polish people think of America in terms of our pictures—and how the heavy-handed “planned” propaganda of their Communist masters can backfire. Quaintly enough, the incident happened on July 4th, this yr.

The day before, “Film Polski,” the Polish gov’t film monopoly, announced a special Sunday matinee at the Atlantic theater in Warsaw, with free tickets to Warsaw trade union mbrs and employees of the post and telegraph services and the ministry of communication.

Showing at the Atlantic theater was *Random Harvest*. The invited audience for the Sunday matinee assumed it was going to see *Random Harvest*, and the seats were promptly filled. The lights dimmed, and the audience settled down to wait for Ronald Coleman and Greer Garson. Suddenly this title flashed on the screen: *Moscow’s 800th Anniv.*

The crowd was dumbfounded for a few sec’s. Then a violent storm of protest broke loose.

The people shouted. They stamped their ft. They drowned out the sound track. Someone in the balcony tore loose a chair and blocked off the projection.

The lights snapped on, and the theater mgr appealed for order, but the crowd rushed for the lobby. There—with grim fingers on the triggers of their tommy guns—was a platoon of militia which ordered the people back to their seats. The atmosphere was loaded with TNT.

The crowd ret’d, but it was un-subdued. It turned its back on the screen; cries went up: “Down with thieves!” “Long Live America!”

For half an hr this demonstration cont’d, while a frantic mgt yelped by telephone to the authorities to give the crowd what it wanted before it wrecked the house.

The audience won, and finally *Random Harvest* unwound before it. As the people triumphantly left the theater, there wasn’t a military man in sight.—Screen Writer.



“If I could give the world a present...”

ALYCE BILLINGS WALKER

If I could give the world a present this Christmas, it would be “Understanding.”

I’d give to the people of our nation understanding of different religions and cultures. I’d want them to have an understanding that what a man is counts—not what he has, not his color.

I’d especially tie up a pkg of understanding that there are day-in-day-out responsibilities that go along with citizenship.

And there would be a big pkg of understanding that the eyes of the world are upon us as a nation. Every act of ours, every word, somehow circles the globe, then boomerangs on us for good or bad. We are a mighty nation, but there must be understanding that arrogance in any degree, in any display, is a shameful thing.

I’d ask Santa please to deliver to people of other nations under-

standing that the mass of people of the U S aren’t selfish. They want to and do share their blessings with them. And not for political reasons, nor as impersonal charity—but because they care about them as people in need.

I’d have delivered better understanding of the women of this nation. Other nationalities would understand that movies are entertainment, and the pampered, giddy women in them are not representative. I’d like the world to know about the real U S women who cherish ideals of kindness, goodness, sanctity of home.

Into their Christmas stocking would go, too, better understanding of our boys and girls. When the wrappings of bobby socks and jittersbugging came off, the world would see the fineness of these youngsters.

A shipment of understanding of our men would go abroad. Then the world would know that our men share with good men everywhere desires for the fundamental and wholesome things for their families. They would see that greed, cunning, heartlessness are not in the pkg.

I’d have the mistaken idea that our homes are shaking corrected. I’d tag a special gift of understanding that for every commercial bldg going up, there are many more homes being built.

To every door, the world over, I’d send complete, definite, untarnished understanding that the people of the U S do not want war.

I’d have a great red bow, the gayest stickers, the brightest paper around the most important pkg of all. In it would be understanding that we, the people in this land want most of all—

“Peace on earth, good will toward men.” — *Birmingham News-Age-Herald.*

New Yr Gratefulness

Our fathers’ God! from out whose hand

The centuries fall like grains of sand

We meet today, united, free,
And loyal to our land and Age,
To thank Thee for the era done,
And trust Thee for the opening one.

—JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

